

Americans to Cross Rhine on 30-Mile Arc

Bridges Are Being Prepared for Great Advance by Army on December 13

Troops Reach Coblenz

Occupation Battalion Well Received by Officials Who Requested Their Arrival

COBLENZ, Dec. 8 (By The Associated Press).—With the arrival of the Americans at the Rhine a company of engineers was prepared to throw a temporary bridge across the stream. There were, however, already four bridges spanning the stream, two here and one in the north and another to the south, over which the American army is expected to cross December 13 in a thirty-mile arc.

Coblenz is under the complete military control of the Americans, with the municipal authorities cooperating.

At the Coblenz end of the three bridges across the Rhine American sentries were posted during the evening.

Take German Quarters
In the afternoon the American forces took charge of the barracks and other buildings evacuated that morning by the German troops.

The American forces comprised the second battalion of the 39th Infantry, which arrived here this afternoon in answer to a request from the German authorities. The reception of the Americans was most friendly.

The Americans marched direct from the train which brought them from Treves to the various arsenals, barracks and storehouses, where they established quarters.

Colonel James Rhea, of Texas, head of the American commission, has been dealing for four days with the local authorities on questions in assuming control of the bridgehead. Instead of antagonism or even passive acquiescence he encountered lively cooperation.

The Mayor of Coblenz issued a proclamation in which he requested the inhabitants to refrain from all acts of discourtesy or violence and to accord the Americans such assistance as was possible. It was due to the Mayor's request, supplemented by one from the military commandant, that the Americans are here to-day.

War Stores Given Up
A local committee was appointed to assist the Americans in assuming control and officers of the German army remained behind after the last of their men had marched out in order to deliver to the Americans great stores of supplies.

The officers with Colonel Rhea are Colonel Clarence Sherrill, of Greensboro, N. C.; Colonel George Spaulding, of New York; and Colonel Henry M. White, of Kentucky.

While the Americans were marching into the city the last division of the German army was only a few kilometers beyond the Rhine, moving in orderly fashion, in the spirit of a holiday rather than that of a defeated army. Almost every man had a rosette or a sprig of green in his cap. Many of the trucks and wagons had on top of them quantities of Christmas greens.

United States Valor Admitted
Lieutenant Heinrich Prince, one of the commissioners detailed by the Germans to deal with the Americans, was the officer who transmitted to Major Whittlesby the German demand to surrender when Whittlesby was commanding the famous "lost battalion" in the Argonne forest. In talking with officers of the 77th Division to-day Lieutenant Prince said his comrades and superior officers held the highest admiration for the Americans in that fight. The only motive for demanding the surrender of the "lost battalion" was to save the Americans from what the Germans believed would be certain annihilation.

The comparatively light yoke the Americans have laid on the Germans has influenced them in their attitude toward the Americans. When the American troops went to the barracks just evacuated by the Germans they found they had been scrubbed to a state of spotlessness, and that the mattress coverings had been washed and refilled with fresh hay.

Formal delivery of stores has not yet been made, but an officer to-day delivered a map to Colonel Rhea showing the location of great quantities of ammunition, guns and general stores, both in Coblenz and in the fortress across the river. It is estimated that more than five hundred trucks will be given up. The total value of the property to be delivered perhaps will run well into millions of dollars.

Here, as at Treves, the Americans are dealing with the de facto authorities. The Workmen's Council is maintaining a commission, but the officers of the American forces were those who long had been functioning, and the Americans are leaving to them the problem of arranging their own affairs in the new party's council. An indication that the determination not to treat with the council will not cause any trouble for the American commission is the receipt of various messages signed by Matthias Erzberger dealing with subjects which the Americans have discussed with the Mayor.

People Not Disturbed
The Americans have not attempted to interfere in any way with local institutions, or the manner of life of the people. The inhabitants retire and arise when they please, and permission is even given to those whose business requires it to cross and recross the Rhine at will.

When the Americans arrived and detained in an outlying section of the city they were met by a large crowd, including municipal officials. Among

the others waiting to see the Americans were two professors with all the pupils of a boys' school.

The train which transported the Americans to Coblenz was manned by a German crew, the American soldiers occupying coaches formerly used by German troops. Each coach carried newspaper correspondents.

The battalion here is commanded by Lieutenant Colonel James Lockett, with Major Fred Hackett second in command. In addition to their rifles and ammunition, the soldiers carried a full pack, containing emergency rations, and additional food supplies were brought by the train to tide the men over until ration trains arrive.

A number of Germans who had lived in the United States for years greeted the American troops on their arrival at Coblenz, among them was Ernest Westfall, whose father lives in Enid, Okla. Westfall, formerly a member of the Missouri National Guard, left Kansas City at the outbreak of the war. He eventually reached Berlin and joined the German army, but was discharged after several months' service owing to illness.

Westfall said he came to Coblenz from Berlin, hoping to see William A. Smith, formerly captain of the Kansas City company of guards, of which Westfall once was a member. Westfall was told that Smith, serving in the 35th Division as a major, was killed at Meuse-Argonne.

Franco-Americans

Relieve Aix-la-Chapelle

COLOGNE, Dec. 7.—French and American troops officially entered Aix-la-Chapelle to-day and took over the occupation of that German city from the Belgians. Allied flags were flown in the Frederick William Place, where the Allied generals assembled to take the salute of the troops.

COLOGNE, Dec. 7 (By The Associated Press).—Order has been re-established in Cologne as the result of the arrival of an advance guard of British troops. There had been several days of the keenest anxiety in the city, caused by extensive riots and pillaging of the shops and houses of the lower classes, with attendant bloodshed from the turbulent element clashed with hastily organized guards of responsible citizens armed with rifles and machine guns.

The disorders began on Wednesday night after the withdrawal of the German troops from the city. The German troops had been in various quarters on a large scale.

Much damage was done to property and a large quantity of goods was looted. The rioting was due to the inability of the poor to obtain food and clothing, owing to the scarcity of these necessities. It was due to the fact that there was little reason to doubt, however, that the trouble was due in part to the freshly inculcated Bolsheviki idea among the proletariat, which was working for an end to the German government.

According to Burgomaster Adenauer, the rising was due to the inability of the poor to obtain food and clothing, owing to the scarcity of these necessities. It was due to the fact that there was little reason to doubt, however, that the trouble was due in part to the freshly inculcated Bolsheviki idea among the proletariat, which was working for an end to the German government.

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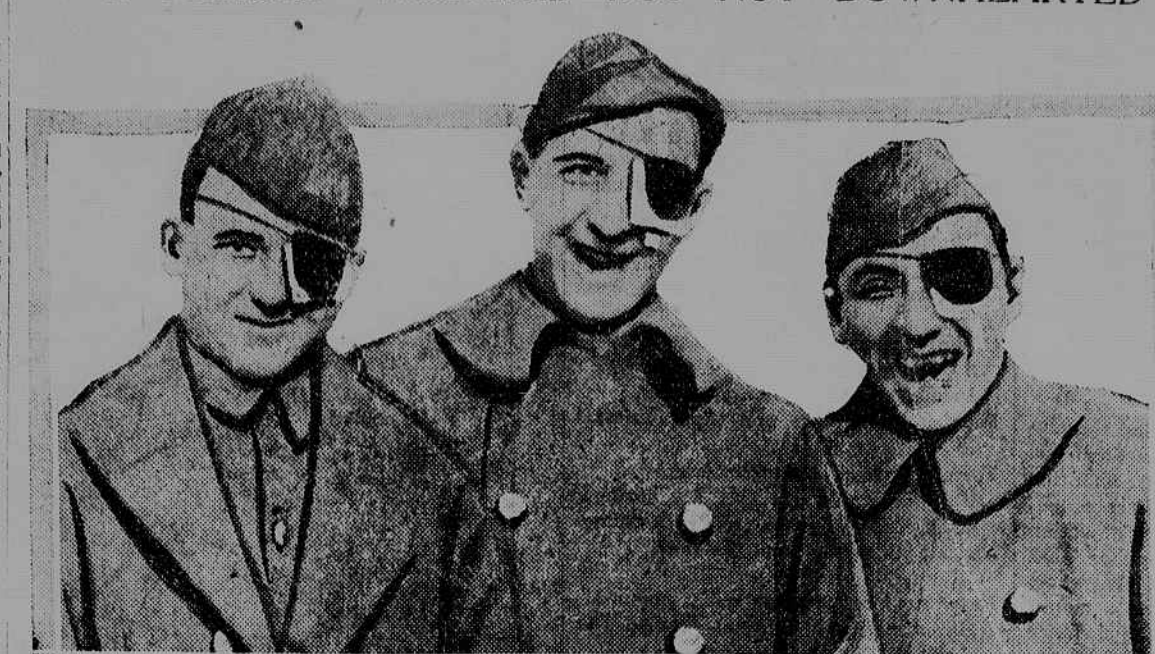
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N. Y. HEROES "WOUNDED BUT NOT DOWNHEARTED"



Even if each lost an eye while fighting with the gallant 27th Division, best known in France as "O'Ryan's Roughnecks," these three New York boys, who arrived on the Empress of Britain yesterday, are smiling now that the war is over. They are, from left to right, Corporal William Mitchell, 105th Infantry, of New York City; Private Allen Valentine, 108th Infantry, of Rochester, and Private Harry Hughes, 108th Infantry, of Brooklyn.

500 Boys of 27th Division Home Again

Continued from page 1

wounded at St. Souples. He lives at 1809 Gleason Avenue, The Bronx.

A story told by Captain George A. Blair, of Illinois, of a doughboy of one of the Brooklyn regiments gave a good account of the fighting unalloyed.

"Both divisions were together when we started the big smash against the Hindenburg line at St. Quentin," he said. "We got it hard, but Fritz got it worse. One night I was down in a trench when an English officer called down to me. He said there was a soldier outside who wanted to see me. There he was, a dirty looking doughboy, who I later learned came from Brooklyn."

"What am I going to do with these?" he said to me. "He didn't have anything in his hands, so I asked him what he wanted. These birds," he answered, waving his hand behind him.

"These birds were twenty-seven Germans and three officers he had taken prisoner. He wanted to maintain order. A dead rest of a party he came across shouted 'Kamerad!'"

"I looked at him and tried not to laugh. He shouted that everybody seemed to be pretty busy."

"That's just the trouble," he said, "nobody seems to want them."

"We needed by shoving them all down into a dug-out and put their tor on guard over them. Gee, he was the sorest doughboy on the Western front, mounting guard over that bunch when he wanted to be up at the front with his company!"

"The Germans at St. Quentin had their artillery well massed and their firing was good. Then in early October we came to the machine gun fire was terrific, for they had machine guns planted about every five feet. These were all one-man guns and the artillery seemed to make little impression on them, but we got them."

Troops who came back on the Empress of Britain were greeted enthusiastically by those who were leaving Camp Mills for their homes after being mustered out of service. Both incoming and departing troops were largely from aero squadrons which had been training in England.

Seven More Transports With 3,000 Soldiers Are on Way to U. S.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—The sailing of seven additional transports for American ports with fifty-two officers and 3,000 men was announced to-day by the War Department. Six sailed on December 6 and the other a day later.

The vessels are the Otsego, Maui, El Occidente, Zuiderdijk, Soestdijk, Mercur and the Melanor, which sailed last. The Zuiderdijk has on board the 11th Anti-aircraft Battery, the Soestdijk has the 4th Railroad Ordnance Artillery repair shop, the Mercur the 102d, 104th and 106th casual companies and the 5th Anti-aircraft Battery, and the other ships are bringing patients and casuals.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—"Our troops in Europe are being returned to the United States as rapidly as conditions will permit," Secretary Baker said to-day. "Determination as to when and particular organization can advantageously be returned is left to the discretion of the commanding general of the expeditionary forces."

Mr. Baker called attention to the fact that officers and enlisted men who desire discharge at this time must apply through the regular military channels, and said letters in this connection directed to the War Department are unnecessary and "will not facilitate or expedite action." All officers and men, except those whose homes are in Europe, the Secretary added, must be returned to this country before discharge.

Returning Soldiers In Grave Peril on Ferryboat in River

After facing the perils of the West front and braving the air at aviation fields in England, the lives of 180 men from the British liner Empress of Britain were imperiled yesterday when the ferryboat General Weston, on which they were being disembarked, took a bad list, due to a mishap in getting away from the pier at West Twenty-second Street, North River.

The returning troops on board the Weston, made up chiefly of aero squadrons, were shouting to their comrades who remained on the Empress and were making merry generally as the ferryboat broke off from the string piece. Her guard rail got fouled of the pier and she was tilted over until her apron was awash.

The list caused hundreds of soldiers to rush to the low side to ascertain the trouble, and this added to the difficulty of Captain Schmeltz, the pilot, who was seeking to free the Weston and get her under way downstream toward the Battery.

Officers forced their way among the men of the crowded ferryboat and ordered them to shift to the high side. Meanwhile the ferryboat drifted out into the stream, and to those on shore it appeared as if she would go over on her beam ends.

When the soldiers realized that the situation was serious they shifted to the high side and the Weston righted herself. The handling of the ferryboat, which is owned by the War Department, was observed by officers on the pier and a report of it was sent to Colonel Robert Shannon at the port of embarkation in Hoboken, who ordered an investigation.

Another note written in haste and

More Transports Are Due in Harbor To-day

The following transports are due in New York to-day with 9,603 officers and men:

Kronland (American) from Brest, 63 officers, 1,130 men (704 sick and wounded), 106 civilians. Docks 8 a. m., Pier 2, Hoboken.

Mersey (American Hospital), Bordeaux, 398 men.

Susquehanna (American), St. Nazaire, 4 officers, 755 men.

Siamese Prince (British), Liverpool, 398 men (surgical cases).

Calamare (British), Liverpool, 14 officers, 1,473 men, all naval.

Adriatic (British), Liverpool, 80 officers, 2,208 men.

Tenadores (American), Verdon, 882 men (medical cases not requiring special attention), 149 civilians, 500 sacks of mail.

Ascanius (British), Liverpool, 47 officers, 1,427 men.

Kronland Brings 1,243 Happy Troops Back From France

Many New Yorkers Return; Spend Impatient Night on Ship; Give Policemen Messages to Home Folks

The American steamship Kronland, one of the fleet of the Red Star Line before the fall of Antwerp, her home port, arrived here last night and dropped anchor off Quarantine. She had on board sixty-three officers and 1,180 men, most of them belonging to New England regiments, and every one of them wanting to know why they had to stay down the bay all night. They were informed that their journey down the bay was ordered that they might come into port in daylight and receive the same sort of welcome that has been accorded all arriving transports.

When it became known that the Kronland was off Sandy Hook, shortly before dawn, Major General David C. Shanks, in command of the port of embarkation, got into communication with Rear Admiral Gleaves, and both decided that the Kronland would not dock until this morning at 8 o'clock.

"Hereafter," General Shanks announced, "no transports will come up to dock after dark. It is only fair to the returning troops that they should have the welcome of the city, and this cannot be done adequately by city officials or enjoyed by the boys if the ship comes up the bay in darkness."

Sick and Wounded Aboard
The Kronland, which carried with the troops a few score civilian messengers, was passed by the health officer, but the Customs officials from the coast guard cutter which awaited the vessel did not go aboard until morning.

The police boat Patrol steamed alongside, and over the rail of the transport an officer told of the units on board. He said the vessel had 20 officers and 53 men from the headquarters of the 76th Division; 5 officers and 145 enlisted men in Ambulance Corps No. 304; 65 civilian seamen, 5 nurses and 704 sick and wounded. Of these, there are on board 22 bed-ridden patients, 35 suffering from tuberculosis and 637 requiring no particular medical attention.

The transport's rails were lined with men as the Patrol glided around her bow from port to starboard, and when the police band played "Home, Sweet Home" it brought out a few hundred crippled men, who were picked up by their stronger comrades. Their eyes might look over the side and see the Patrol, which with its band and municipal committee was the prologue of the reception that will be accorded the soldiers to-day.

"This is fine stuff," said a voice from the starboard quarter. "How would you like a German helmet for a souvenir?"

"Great," said a man on the Patrol. "Let her go."

True to his word the man with the helmet, hurried something dark and round toward the Patrol, but it hit the water, splashed and disappeared beneath the surface.

Shower of Messages
Presently a veritable shower of messages, some of them in stamped envelopes, were thrown at the Patrol, and these were hurried up by policemen, who took them to the city for mailing.

One message scrawled on a piece of wrapping paper bore this injunction: "Please notify my sister, Mrs. Charles M. Stewart, 1007 Fifth Street, Aurora, Neb., that I'll be home for Christmas. Slightly wounded but feeling great. Glad to be home."

Another message on a sheet of Y. M. C. A. stationery had this request: "Please notify my sister, Mrs. Charles M. Stewart, 1007 Fifth Street, Aurora, Neb., that I'll be home for Christmas. Slightly wounded but feeling great. Glad to be home."

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Gompers Pleads for Labor's Share in Fruits of Progress

American Federation Chief Tells Foreign Relations Council That Workers Are Entitled to Share

After the failure of the Administration to protect American interests in Mexico had been sharply criticized and the necessity of refraining from business transactions with countries lacking stable governments had been emphasized at the dinner of the Council on Foreign Relations, at the Hotel Astor last night, Samuel Gompers got up and made one of the strongest pleas he has yet uttered for support of organized labor from the American business man.

"The American labor movement," he said, "as represented by the American Federation of Labor, is simply this: We believe in progress. We believe that all the fruits of the genius of past ages and of to-day do not belong to any particular class—that they belong to every man who gives service to society and aids civilization."

"If you gentlemen stand like a stone wall against that concept"—and here he let his gaze travel very slowly around the table and his voice took on a deep fervor—"if you stand as a united body against that presentation of thought, no one knows what will come of it, and what you may have to contend with later."

Mr. Gompers followed H. H. Brandon, high commissioner from Australia, who had declared against the principle of compulsory arbitration in labor disputes. The American labor dean echoed that opposition.

Otto H. Kahn, followed Mr. Gompers and pronounced a solemn amen to the latter's sentiments.

"What he advises," said Mr. Kahn, "we must all try to do—particularly because it is he who advises it. For Mr. Gompers has proved his strength and wisdom. And in the past, it should not be forgotten, when it was necessary, he has had the courage to stand against those he represented, to teach

them judgment, moderation and sound common sense."

Former Ambassador James W. Gerard had been scheduled to preside at the dinner, but a previous speaking engagement delayed him, and during the earlier part of the evening Lindsay Russell occupied the chair.

At the outset Mr. Russell said that A. Barton Hepburn, who had been announced as among the principal speakers, was prevented from attending, but he had sent a paper, which was read.

"Citizens of the United States," said Mr. Hepburn, "had at least \$2,000,000,000 invested in municipal and government loans in Mexico, in public utilities and in industrial enterprises. All this indebtedness is now in abeyance, much is already a loss, and what is to be saved will represent a long-drawn-out struggle. Our government failed in its duty to protect its citizens in their efforts to promote their own interests and at the same time develop our foreign commerce. This lesson was already strongly impressed upon all our people; that it is unsafe to make any kind of investment in a country that is not well governed."

Francis H. Sisson, vice-president of the Guaranty Trust Company, made this point still more specific.

He dwelt on the point that no right of national "self-determination" which doubts order and disregards the principle of the greatest good to the greatest number is one which we are bound to reject.

Notable among several other speakers were C. T. Wang, first president of the first Chinese Senate, who told of the formation of the Chinese republic, and Richard Washburn Child, who spoke of the difficulties the Council on Foreign Relations is having in persuading the government at Washington to allow unofficial missions to proceed abroad and of the seeming impossibility of getting a statement of definite policy from the Department of Commerce.

Wang's Policy Outlined
"We present the policy of making the life of the masses of our people better and better, and forward at that day to-day than yesterday, a better day to-morrow than to-day, a better day every day thereafter in the life of the people of our country."

"If that policy of the American labor movement is opposed, and by opposition destroyed, then our work, our activity, our policy and our movement will be sent to destruction."

"If we are impotent, if we are incapable of securing for the workers improvements in their conditions, then we ought not to exist." All round the board the guests sat forward at that point of choice for you whether you will deal with such elements or deal with the constructive forces of the organized labor movement of the country."

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